

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Leonard Mitchard on 12/16/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims

1-26 (Cancelled)

Claim 27 (New) A process for providing a slurry of particulate matter to a reactor of a reactor system comprising: (i) said reactor; (ii) a slurry tank connected to said reactor; (iii) a feed pot connected to said slurry tank; (iv) a day tank connected to said feed pot; and (v) a load cell, wherein said day tank is placed on said load cell, said process comprising the steps of:

- (a) adding said particulate matter in dry form to said day tank;
- (b) measuring the mass of said particulate matter in dry form in said day tank using said load cell, and moving said particulate matter into said feed pot;
- (c) adding said measured particulate matter and a volume of diluent to said slurry tank to form a slurry of said particulate matter;
- (d) calculating the concentration of said slurry from said measured mass of said particulate matter and said volume of said diluent;
- (g) continuously withdrawing said slurry from said slurry tank into said reactor;
- (f) providing means for measuring the mass flow of said slurry out of the slurry tank to the reactor, and determining how much of the first batch of said slurry is left in said slurry tank;

- (g) determining the volume of said diluent and said mass of said particulate matter left in the slurry tank from step (f);
- (h) repeating the steps (a)-(d) to refill partially emptied slurry tank with a new amount of said particulate matter and said diluent to keep the concentration calculated in step (d) in said slurry tank, which keeps the constant net amount of said particulate matter fed to said reactor.

Claim 28 (New) The process according to claim 27, wherein said particulate matter is a catalyst.

Claim 29 (New) The process according to claim 27, wherein said volume of said diluent and said particulate matter are added separately to said slurry tank.

Claim 30 (New) The process according to claim 27, wherein said volume of said diluent is added to said feed pot containing said measured particulate matter, wherein at least a portion of said volume of said diluent is used to flush said measured mass of said particulate matter into said slurry tank.

Claim 31 (New) The process according to claim 28, wherein said reactor is a polymerization reactor, and said process further comprises a step of controlling the mass flow of said catalyst to said polymerization reactor.

Claim 32 (New) The process according to claim 28, wherein said catalyst is a polymerization catalyst.

Claim 33 (New) The process according to claim 31, wherein the mass flow of said catalyst to said polymerization reactor varies by less than 10% during filing of said slurry tank.

Claim 34 (New) The process according to claim 33, wherein the mass flow of said catalyst to said polymerization reactor varies by less than 5% during filling of said slurry tank.

Specification

Delete:

"Accordingly in a first aspect the present invention provides a method of providing a flow of particulate matter to a reactor, comprising intermittently adding said particulate matter and a diluent to a mixing tank, and continuously withdrawing a slurry of particulate matter in diluent from the mixing tank for introduction into the reactor, wherein prior to each addition of particulate matter and diluent to the mixing tank, the concentration of particulate matter in the diluent already in the mixing tank is measured or calculated, and the amount of particulate matter and diluent subsequently added is measured so as to achieve the same concentration at the end of the addition as that measured or calculated prior to the addition.

Preferably the measurement of the amount of particulate matter and diluent added to the mixing tank is carried out before any diluent is added to the particulate matter, which may occur before addition to the mixing tank as discussed below."

on page 3, lines 6-17 (paragraphs [0007]-[0009] of PG-Pub) and

Insert:

"Accordingly in a first aspect the present invention provides:

A process for providing a slurry of particulate matter to a reactor of a reactor system comprising: (i) said reactor; (ii) a slurry tank connected to said reactor; (iii) a feed pot connected to said slurry tank; (iv) a day tank connected to said feed pot; and (v) a load cell, wherein said day tank is placed on said load cell, said process comprising the steps of:

- (a) adding said particulate matter in dry form to said day tank;
- (b) measuring the mass of said particulate matter in dry form in said day tank using said load cell, and moving said particulate matter into said feed pot;

- (c) adding said measured particulate matter and a volume of diluent to said slurry tank to form a slurry of said particulate matter;
- (d) calculating the concentration of said slurry from said measured mass of said particulate matter and said volume of said diluent;
- (g) continuously withdrawing said slurry from said slurry tank into said reactor;
- (f) providing means for measuring the mass flow of said slurry out of the slurry tank to the reactor, and determining how much of the first batch of said slurry is left in said slurry tank;
- (g) determining the volume of said diluent and said mass of said particulate matter left in the slurry tank from step (f);
(h) repeating the steps (a)-(d) to refill partially emptied slurry tank with a new amount of said particulate matter and said diluent to keep the concentration calculated in step (d) in said slurry tank, which keeps the constant net amount of said particulate matter fed to said reactor."

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Closest prior art of record are CELANESE Corp (GB 896,786), as shown in the previously actions, which controls the addition of mass of catalyst by adjusting the rate of addition of the catalyst in to the slurry tank; and U.S. 5,098,667 which discloses a process of providing a dilute slurry formed in a mix tank to provide a continuous flow of solid particles into a reactor, where the flow rate of the dilute slurry from the mix tank into the reactor is continuously adjusted to provide a desired flow rate of solid particles contained in the dilute slurry. Both references fail to teach a batch-wise supply/refill of measured mass of catalyst and a volume of diluent into a slurry tank to keep a steady concentration of the catalyst in the slurry tank, which result in a continuous mass balance of the catalyst added to a reactor. Both references fail to render obvious the step of providing an intermediary container between a slurry mixing tank and a catalyst supply device, which is on a scale to weigh catalyst before the addition of the catalyst to the mix tank.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shogo Sasaki whose telephone number is (571)270-7071. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 10:00am-6:30pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SS

/Jill Warden/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797

12/17/09